

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM AT ARLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I ask the Senate to join me in recognizing Arlington High School in Oregon and its remarkable career and technical education program. Thanks to the leadership of district staff and the support of the community, students at Arlington High are better prepared for their post high school careers.

Career and technical education provides students of all ages with the academic and technical skills, knowledge, and training necessary to succeed in future careers. Students participating in career and technical education programs graduate high school at higher rates than average and are better prepared to get good-paying jobs beyond the classroom.

The HonkerTech Center at Arlington High School offers many disciplines to its students, based on interests and career choices. These include metal fabrication, digital design and production, and mechanics. Students learn business concepts and skills, like developing a project budget and writing a proposal and using accounting software. Students are accountable and responsible for designing their projects. They also have an opportunity to gain practical, real-world experience working with regional and international customers on custom products. The impact of this program extends beyond the classroom, making sure that students have the skills they need to become lifelong learners, even after they graduate.

I am proud to recognize the career and technical education program at Arlington High School and the good work being done to prepare Oregon students for success after graduation. This is what I call doing things the Oregon way.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES DAVIS

• Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I want to take a moment to honor an American hero and a fellow Louisianan. In just a few days, Charles Davis, from Toledo Bend Lake, LA, will celebrate his 93rd birthday. Charles is a World War II veteran who gave many years of his life in the service of his country.

Charles Davis was 16 years old when Pearl Harbor was bombed. Like many Americans, the attack on Pearl Harbor led Davis to serve his country by enlisting in the Navy. While just a teenager, his service in the military took him around the globe, fighting for the country he loves.

During his time in the war, Charles served on a ship that was bombed while out at sea. He spent 37 hours adrift alongside 1,200 soldiers, with nothing to keep them alive other than their life vests. Charles thought he was going to die that day, but after 37 hours in the

ocean, he was rescued. Nearly 300 of the men in the water with him did not make it. Among the men who died that day was another American hero, Charles's brother, Albert Anthony Davis.

Charles served in the military for 8 years and after the war returned to Louisiana to serve as a firefighter. As Charles celebrates his 93rd birthday, I want to honor his life and dedication to his country. He risked his life in service to his country and lost a brother and many comrades during the war.

Mr. Davis, we are grateful for your service, and I would like to wish you a very happy birthday and many blessings in the years to come.●

REMEMBERING REBECCA "BECKY" WEICHHAND

• Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, today, along with Senator ROY BLUNT of Missouri, I wish to honor Rebecca "Becky" Weichhand, a fierce and tireless advocate for adoption.

From an early age, Becky knew she wanted to be a lawyer to help children, and for almost 10 years, she pursued that dream as the director of policy and later as the executive director of the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute, CCAI. As Senate co-chairs of the Congressional Coalition on Adoption, we had the privilege of working with Becky and witnessed firsthand how her work changed the lives of children around the world. Becky was a mentor to foster youth and advised 10 classes of foster youth interns on Capitol Hill, who helped to research and develop policy proposals informed by their own experience to help our Nation's foster children. She also led efforts to help Members of Congress promote adoption and foster care around the world, organizing nine domestic and international delegation trips. In addition, Becky spearheaded the Angels in Adoption Program, which honors organizations and people who have had an extraordinary impact on children, their families, and communities across the country. During her tenure, 1,257 people and organizations were recognized with this honor.

Becky dedicated her career to the belief that every child deserves a loving and stable home. She was instrumental in efforts to preserve the adoption tax credit, including working to establish a coalition of more than 150 organizations and advocating to make the adoption tax credit permanent in 2012.

Becky's faith, compassion, and kindness were evident in everything she did, and she will be dearly missed. Her life was a blessing to many, and we will honor it by continuing her work of bringing loving families together with children in need.●

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIGHLAND PARK, MICHIGAN

• Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 100th anniversary

of Highland Park, MI. Situated in Wayne County of southeast Michigan, Highland Park is endowed with a rich history of innovation as the "birthplace of mass production." It is also the site of the Nation's first urban highway, and was fondly referred to as the "City of Trees" for its beautiful foliage.

In its infancy, the settlement that would eventually become Highland Park underwent two name changes, Nabor and then Whitewood, respectively, before it was incorporated as a village in 1889 and then as a city in the early 20th century.

The small farming community experienced an economic boom in 1910, when Henry Ford opened his first Model T factory, now recognized as a historical site. The opening of the plant paved the way for new infrastructure, which changed the rapidly growing Highland Park Village's landscape from rural to urban. The news of abundant economic opportunity in the village spread nationally and internationally. Immigrants came to Highland Park aspiring to earn the impressive \$5-a-day wage that Henry Ford's factories offered, while new residents traveled from across the Nation to the village in hopes of becoming newly minted members of the middle-class. The population grew from a little under 500 residents at the top of the 20th century to over 50,000 in 1930.

The city of Detroit, Highland Park Village's southern neighbor, also began to expand. From the early 1800s and into the early part of the 1900s, the city of Detroit's footprint increased as the city moved to annex surrounding townships. To prevent annexation by the bustling city of Detroit, Highland Park officially incorporated as a city in 1918. Detroit continued to enlarge its borders, ultimately encircling the city of Highland Park, leading to the city within a city phenomenon seen today.

Before Highland Park became the epicenter of production, with the presence of Ford and later Chrysler, it was appropriately named the City of Trees, for its abundance of elms, reminiscent of a forest. Beautiful arrays of elm trees lined neighborhood streets as trees were planted in front of every home. Unfortunately, the once striking display of greenery diminished toward the 1970s, due to the spread of Dutch elm disease, which impacted surrounding cities as well.

In another historic first, Highland Park was the site of the country's first urban highway, the Davison Freeway. Construction began in 1941 and was expeditiously completed in 1942 to ease transport for Defense manufacturers assisting in the Nation's "Arsenal of Democracy" during World War II. The Davison Freeway greatly improved the flow of traffic to and from the city of Detroit.

The Highland Park community includes a diverse and hard-working population, and many notable figures in government, sports, and popular culture have called Highland Park home.